Application No.: 09/260,903 Docket No.: \$1905.0080/P080

REMARKS

Claims 5-11, 13, and 15 are pending in this application. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 11, 13, and 15 and the indication that claims 5-10 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 12, and 14 are cancelled without prejudice and claims 5-10 have been rewritten in independent form. In light of the amendments and remarks set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending claims is in immediate condition for allowance.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 11, 13 and 15 are allowed and that claims 5-10 contain allowable subject matter. As such, Applicant has rewritten claims 5-10 in independent form to expedite prosecution of this case.

Applicant has responded to all of the rejections and objections recited in the Office Action. Reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance for all of the pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue.

Application No.: 09/260,903 Docket No.: \$1905.0080/P080

If the Examiner believes an interview would be of assistance, the Examiner is welcome to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Dated: July 22, 2004

Respectfully supported,

Ian R. Blum

Registration No.: 42,336

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

1177 Avenue of the Americas

New York, New York 10036-2714

(212) 835-1400

Attorney for Applicant

IRB/mgs